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1 – ITC chemical fire site still ‘a hot zone’ to county investigators, Houston Chronicle, 3/27/19

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/ITC-chemical-fire-site-still-a-hot-zone-to-13722170.php>

The site of the Intercontinental Terminal Co. chemical fire is still too precarious for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office to start its probe into what caused the destructive blaze, officials said Wednesday in opposing a request to preserve potential evidence.

2 – ITC Deer Park fire: Here are the resources you need, KPRC, 3/27/19

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/itc-deer-park-fire-here-are-the-resources-you-need>

Looking for resources such as air and water quality monitoring, how to get help for health issues and how to file a claim in the wake of the Intercontinental Terminals Co. chemical fire in Deer Park?

3 – Verify: How safe is the water after the ITC Deer Park fire? (VIDEO) KHOU 11, 3/27/19

<https://www.khou.com/video/news/local/verify/verify-how-safe-is-the-water-after-the-itc-deer-park-fire/285-c24f17de-92b0-4039-a1d1-04cea37c8be3>

Some people are saying the water is contaminated due to the ITC fire. What water is contaminated? Is the tap water from City of Houston contaminated?

4 – EPA's Wheeler Recused From 45 Superfund Sites Given Past Work, Bloomberg, 3/27/19

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epas-wheeler-recused-from-45-superfund-sites-given-past-work>

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's history of lobbying for International Paper Co. and Xcel Energy Inc., among other companies, means he is recused from working on 45 Superfund sites, according to new agency data.

5 – No federal funding for Socorro toxic cleanup, Alb Journal, 3/27/19

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/deerpark/article/ITC-continues-cleanup-effort-at-charred-Deer-Park-13717093.php>

The cleanup of contamination caused by a long abandoned battery plant just north of the Socorro city limits – expected to take two to three decades once underway – has been put on hold due to a lack of federal funding. And that comes after the Environmental Protection Agency declared the closed Eagle Picher Carefree Battery Plant a Superfund site 12 years ago.

6 – Farm-permits bill withdrawn for more study, Ark Dem Gazette, 3/28/19

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/mar/28/farm-permits-bill-withdrawn-for-more-st/?news>

A bill that would change how Arkansas' hog farms and many dairy farms receive permits won't be presented again this session after the bill's House sponsor asked lawmakers to move it into interim study Wednesday.

LOCAL // HOUSTON

ITC chemical fire site still 'a hot zone' to county investigators

Nicole Hensley and Samantha Ketterer

March 27, 2019 | Updated: March 27, 2019 9:12 p.m.



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ITC lawyer Michael Goldberg leaves a courtroom on March 27, 2019, after a temporary restraining order was requested in connection to the Deer Park chemical plant fire.

Photo: Nicole Hensley, Staff

The site of the Intercontinental Terminal Co. chemical fire is still too precarious for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office to start its probe into what caused the destructive blaze, officials said Wednesday in opposing a request to preserve potential evidence.

It will be Monday at the earliest before fire investigators can enter the Deer Park industrial plant, Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie Christensen Christensen told a Harris County judge.

Until then, a temporary restraining order filed Wednesday to demand the immediate sampling of chemicals, soil and tank residue would present a safety hazard, she said.

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"It's unsafe to make entry right now," Christensen said. "The site is considered a hot zone."

The order was requested hours after authorities reopened the Houston Ship Channel to vessels at slower speeds because of a chemical spill following the March 17 fire. Ships are being checked for traces of oily product being dragged in their wake.

The motion was filed in connection to a lawsuit from 75-year-old Deer Park retiree Refugio Reyes.

Christensen argued the order was worded in a way that could mean the removal of chemicals, even as a safety precaution, would mean the destruction of evidence.

"The reality is, we may need to move product around to safely enter," she said.

The fire marshal stood among about a dozen lawyers representing ITC, Harris County and the plaintiffs suing the petrochemical company who surrounded Judge Steven Kirkland in the 334th Civil Court to debate the order. Kirkland declined to sign the order and asked the lawyers to work together to draft a new document that would require additional sampling without impacting the county investigation.

The lawyers tried compiling a revised motion in a small conference room adjacent to the courtroom until a bailiff asked them to quiet down. The meeting stopped after about 10 minutes before Kirkland was told the order would be ready by Friday.

Among the attorneys was Michael Goldberg, who is representing ITC. He contends the company is cooperating with local, state and federal authorities to secure the terminal site along Independence Parkway.

"We can't and won't force the government to violate safety concerns," Goldberg said. "Safety, not lawsuits, is our concern."

Another ITC lawyer, Russell Lewis, echoed Christensen's sentiments that the Deer Park plant is not ready for operations beyond securing the tanks.

"We are still moving product from the damaged tanks to secure the site and make it safe," Lewis said. "(The order) would prevent the agencies and ITC from continuing to get the site safe for access so the fire marshal can come in and begin an investigation."

Meanwhile, the transfer of chemicals and clean-up at the plant where the fire razed 11 storage tanks is progressing, ITC incident commander Brent Weber said during a press conference Wednesday morning. Four compromised tanks are now secure, meaning the chemicals contained in them have been relocated.

All of the tanks that contained pygas, which has concentrations of the carcinogen benzene, are included in the count of secured tanks, he said.

Company officials declined to comment on a separate lawsuit Harris County filed Tuesday against the company. The litigation alleges that ITC violated the Texas Clean Air Act, as well as county floodplain regulations and other rules. The officials also refused to comment on allegations of illegal structures on site, out of compliance with the floodplain regulations.

ITC President and CEO Bernt Netland, who had failed to publicly address the fire in the 10 days since it erupted, issued his first statement Wednesday night in a video.

"The majority of our employees live in the community that surrounds our facilities," said Netland, whose Texas-based company is part of the Japanese group Mitsui & Co. "All of us are profoundly upset that the incident happened and its impact on the surrounding community since the incident started."

"I pledge to you that we are making all available resources to resolve this," he added.

During the court hearing Wednesday, Benny Agosto Jr., who is representing a Denver Harbor family in a separate ITC lawsuit, double-downed on the need for more chemical sampling as the clean-up continues. The best evidence, he said, is in the tanks and soil.

"I ask specifically for samplings as they go. They're moving product out of these things I want to know what's in these tanks. I want to see the residue at the bottom of the tanks," Agosto told the judge.

In response, Harris County Assistant County Attorney Graylon Wells said the results of the fire marshal investigation, once complete, would be made available..

"We don't want somebody sitting over our shoulder and testing things while we're doing our investigation," Wells said. "We ask that we do our investigations and then the plaintiff's attorneys can go in there."

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ITC Deer Park fire: Here are the resources you need

Posted: 6:05 PM, March 27, 2019

Updated: 6:05 PM, March 27, 2019

HOUSTON - Looking for resources such as air and water quality monitoring, how to get help for health issues and how to file a claim in the wake of the Intercontinental Terminals Co. chemical fire in Deer Park? KPRC2 has you covered.

The ITC fire started March 17 and spread throughout the facility, engulfing nine of the 15 tanks in the area. It was put out around 2 a.m. March 20.

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Later that afternoon, the fire reignited after an explosion. Crews were able to put out the fire.

On March 21, benzene – a known carcinogen – was detected in the air, prompting more school closures and another shelter-in-place order. Though the shelter-in-place order was lifted, schools remained closed for the rest of the week.

On March 22, there was a break in a dike wall near the facility's incinerated tanks. Hours after the break, two tanks and chemical runoff in a ditch caught fire, sending yet another plume of smoke over the Deer Park area.

The fire was contained and crews have been working to secure the site and prevent another reignition since.

Below is a list of resources and helpful links:

HOW TO CHECK AIR QUALITY LEVELS

You can check daily air quality in Houston and surrounding areas by visiting [Airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov) [<https://airnow.gov/>]. The website has data and forecasts from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, including the air quality forecast, current conditions and maps of your area.

This is the TCEQ's current air quality conditions [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/select_curlev.pl?user_param=88502&user_metro=1&user_average=1] for Houston.

Harris County created a web page [<https://www.readyharris.org/Deer-Park-Fire>] laying out the pollution control air monitoring for Deer Park. The map shows data collected from handheld monitors.

You can also download apps like AirVisual [<https://www.airvisual.com/air-quality-app>]. This app gives you pollution alerts, helps you stay updated on air quality and shares current levels. Another air quality-tracking app is Plume Air Report [<https://air.plumelabs.com/en/>].

HOW TO CHECK WATER QUALITY REPORTS

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, "the city of Deer Park reports that run-off of foam and chemicals resulting from the fire response do not pose a threat to the quality of the city's drinking water. Water in the municipal water system does not come into contact with the water impacted by the fire response. Laboratory testing of the city of Deer Park's water revealed no evidence of benzene. The only volatile organic compounds detected were the total trihalomethanes at 14 micrograms per liter, which is well below the maximum allowed 80 micrograms per liter, which is a disinfectant byproduct.

"The area north of Texas 225 drains toward the Houston Ship Channel, which is not used by any public water system in the Houston area as a source for drinking water. Deer Park residents who use wells north of Texas 225 should have their water tested before using."

Click here to see the latest water quality reports. [<https://itcresponse.com/water-quality-reports/>]

WHAT ABOUT EATING FISH FROM THE CHANNEL?

The Texas Department of State Health Services on March 27 updated its fish consumption advisory that covers the Houston Ship Channel to recommend that no one eat fish from that area, rather than women past childbearing age and adult men limited to one meal per month.

Click here for more information on the advisory. [<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates/ADV-55GBEMapPDF.pdf>]

HOW TO GET HELP FOR HEALTH ISSUES

Harris Health System opened its Ask My Nurse Hotline for concerned citizens who had questions about their health.

Clinically trained nurses are telling people if they need emergency assistance to go to the hospital and if they can wait, then they should see their primary care doctor or go to an urgent care center.

The hotline is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and will be active for as long as it's needed.

The number to call is 713-634-1110.

Symptoms could include coughing, difficulty breathing and burning, irritation and redness to eyes, nose and throat. People could also experience headaches, nausea or dizziness.

Elderly people, pregnant women and children with respiratory issues or are immunosuppressed may be impacted.

Memorial Hermann Hospital has a 24-hour phone number you can call: 713-338-7979.

Talk to someone you trust if you're feeling stress or anxious. Or you can contact the National Distress Line (call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746) offers 24/7 emotional support.

HOW TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST ITC

"Claims have arisen as a result of the Sunday morning incident. If you believe you have suffered damage or loss as a result of the incident, you can go to <http://itcclaims.com>, download and fill out the appropriate claim form, and submit it with supporting documents using the following email address: incidents31719@itcclaims.com, or by mail to the following address:

ITC Claims
March 17, 2019 Incident
P.O. Box 698
Deer Park, Texas, 77536

Businesses and residents can also call the ITCCares telephone hotline at 346-263-9766. Please note that there are separate claim forms for businesses and individuals.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Harris County website

<https://www.readyharris.org/Deer-Park-Fire> [<https://www.readyharris.org/Deer-Park-Fire>]

Deer Park city website

<http://www.deerparktx.gov/1778/ITC-Fire> [<http://www.deerparktx.gov/1778/ITC-Fire>]

ITC website

<https://itcresponse.com/> [<https://itcresponse.com/>]

EPA website

<https://response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire> [<https://response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire>]

TCEQ website

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/itc-terminal-fire-update>

[<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/itc-terminal-fire-update>]

Harris County Public Health website

<http://www.hcphtx.org/Newsroom/Press-Releases> [<http://www.hcphtx.org/Newsroom/Press-Releases>]

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KHOU 11 viewer Marilu Beltran asked, "Some people are saying the water is contaminated due to the ITC fire. What water is contaminated? Is the tap water from City of Houston contaminated? Here's what our verify team found out."

Published: 7:16 PM CDT March 27, 2019

Updated: 7:14 PM CDT March 27, 2019

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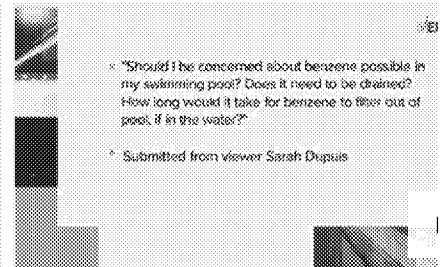
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EPA's Wheeler Recused From 45 Superfund Sites Given Past Work

By Sylvia Carignan

Posted March 27, 2019, 2:54 PM

- Wheeler's history with International Paper, Xcel Energy creates conflict of interest for EPA
- Trump nominee for EPA's Superfund, waste office also recused from Superfund sites

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's history of lobbying for International Paper Co. and Xcel Energy Inc., among other companies, means he is recused from working on 45 Superfund sites, according to new agency data.

Some attorneys say recusals generally don't affect the Environmental Protection Agency leadership's ability to run the Superfund program, but for community advocates, the recusals can lead to a game of musical chairs in conversations about sites across the country.

In a meeting last year between Wheeler and Trump's nominee to head the Office of Land and Emergency Management, former Dow counsel Peter Wright, each had to leave the room at different points, depending on what Superfund site was being discussed, said Lois Gibbs, founder of the Center for Health, Environment & Justice.

Her advocacy organization and community advocates from Superfund sites around the country meet with EPA officials quarterly, according to Gibbs.

Sites listed on the National Priorities List, also known as Superfund sites, are among the most contaminated in the country. The overall list includes the Gowanus Canal in New York, San Jacinto River Waste Pits in Texas, and Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

The list of sites Wheeler is recused from includes the San Jacinto site, as well as groundwater contamination in Libby, Mont., and Casmalia Resources in California. All but one of the 45 sites is related to International Paper.

Peter Wright, who is working at the EPA as special adviser to the administrator while he awaits Senate confirmation, is recused from 300 sites, which include Superfund and other hazardous waste sites.

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EPA's Superfund, Waste Chief Recused From Working on 300 Sites (1) (Dec. 14, 2018, 1:15 PM)

Wheeler's Bid for EPA Chief Clears Senate Environment Panel (2) (Feb. 5, 2019, 9:24 AM)

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No federal funding for Socorro toxic cleanup

By Scott Turner / Journal Staff Writer

Published: Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 at 11:35pm

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The cleanup of contamination caused by a long abandoned battery plant just north of the Socorro city limits – expected to take two to three decades once underway – has been put on hold due to a lack of federal funding.

And that comes after the Environmental Protection Agency declared the closed Eagle Picher Carefree Battery Plant a Superfund site 12 years ago.

“EPA Region 6 has not received any Congressional funding for the Eagle Picher site,” EPA spokesperson Jennah Durant told the Journal. “The federal budget and available funds affect the pace, scope and duration of fund-financed cleanups. In a given fiscal year, the Superfund construction budget is typically insufficient to pay for both ongoing cleanup projects and all the new shovel-ready projects.”

The New Mexico Environment Department is working with the EPA on the cleanup, but NMED spokesperson Maddy Hayden said there were no other options available for funding.

The EPA and the NMED have a plan in place to clean up the contamination of TCE (trichloroethylene), and smaller amounts of PCE (tetrachloroethene), DCE (dichloroethene) and DCA (dichloroethane) from years of discharge of waste by the plant from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s.

NMED Project Manager Sabino Rivera said during a meeting at Socorro City Hall last October that four injection wells and six extraction wells are expected to be constructed to pump the contamination from a groundwater plume that extends 9,000 feet from just south of the Eagle Picher Carefree Battery site and just north of the Socorro city limits to an area that includes the northern part of the New Mexico Tech golf course. The plume is 2,000 feet wide.

It’s a process, he said, that could take between 20 years and 30 years to complete.

And it’s a process that could cost about \$13.8 million to complete, Durant said, if the project gets the funding. More than \$12 million of that is needed for the groundwater cleanup. The rest is needed for soil and debris removal.

“We have many Superfund sites around the nation,” U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M. said. “They need attention and funding. It’s appalling that an administration would recommend cuts to the overall Superfund because there’s so much work to do. I’ve always fought to see that there’s adequate funding.”

Durant said if an immediate risk develops at an unfunded site, such as the one in Socorro, the EPA would take immediate action.

There is a hope for funding in October for the cleanup around the Eagle Picher plant site that would include the demolition of buildings, but Hayden said that’s only preliminary.

“NMED is requesting bids from contractors for the removal of the contaminated soils and building materials, including lead-based paint and asbestos-containing building material,” Hayden said. “Through the cooperative agreement, NMED would oversee the contractors conducting the removal. If the contractors submit a bid lower than the costs stated in the Record of Decision, then our understanding is the EPA will attempt to make some funding available.”

Rivera has requested assistance from the city of Socorro with the demolition, should the funding become available.

But Socorro Mayor Ravi Bhasker told the Journal the real problem was with the groundwater.

"The city in good faith already put down \$200,000 a long time ago in hopes the federal government would in good faith fund the rest of the project," Bhasker said.

Contaminated vapors have gotten into the soil and into some of the homes in the groundwater plume. But Hayden said City of Socorro wells that supply the area with drinking water are not affected.

Contact the writer.

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Farm-permits bill withdrawn for more study

Questions prompt sponsor to set measure aside for now

by Emily Walkenhorst | Today at 3:45 a.m. | Updated March 28, 2019 at 3:45 a.m.

1 COMMENT

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John Bailey, director of environmental and regulatory affairs for the Arkansas Farm Bureau, spoke for more than half an

hour in favor of Senate Bill 550. At right is Rep. Mary Bentley, R-Perryville, House sponsor of the bill. - Photo by John Sykes Jr.

A bill that would change how Arkansas' hog farms and many dairy farms receive permits won't be presented again this session after the bill's House sponsor asked lawmakers to move it into interim study Wednesday.

After nearly two hours of discussion on the bill, which had been scheduled as a special order of business, Rep. Mary Bentley, R-Perryville, asked the House Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee to move the bill to interim study for possible proposal in the 2021 legislative session. No lawmakers opposed the motion.

The decision to pull the bill comes a week after senators approved it and sent it to the House, five days after federal regulators said they were reviewing the bill and two days after Gov. Asa Hutchinson said he hoped lawmakers would "postpone" the bill because of EPA concerns and anticipated changes to state government.

Bentley said there was a lot of confusion at the meeting Wednesday morning and told lawmakers that she wanted to clear things up before presenting the bill again.

"I'm disappointed in some of the things that have been brought up today," she said, adding that there is no reason for people to be confused and that she still thinks it's a good bill.

"None of us like the smell of swine litter, but we sure like the taste of bacon," she said.

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Debate surrounding the bill Wednesday largely concerned disagreements over what it would actually do and what it said versus what its supporters said they had intended.

Senate Bill 550 sought to change the agency ultimately responsible for issuing permits to farms that have liquid animal manure systems -- typically hog farms but also certain-sized dairy farms -- from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

The commission would have decided whether to permit farms' liquid waste management systems and would have issued permits approved by local conservation districts for liquid waste disposal. The commission also could overturn the disapproval of a disposal permit or a disapproval of part of one.

Currently, the commission reviews liquid waste disposal plans, formally called "nutrient management plans," and determines whether they meet the commission's standards. The plans are then submitted as part of farms' operating permit applications to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Under an amendment filed Monday by Bentley, both the local conservation districts and the commission would be required to approve plans before the commission could issue a permit.

The amendment, which was never voted on, also would have included statements saying that the bill would not interfere with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency programs delegated to the Department of Environmental Quality and that its provisions would be considered null and void if the EPA decided to take back the permitting authority delegated to states.

The EPA has delegated permitting authority for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits to the department, but only one hog or dairy farm has one -- C&H Hog Farms in Newton County, which has been ordered by the department to close. Other hog and dairy operations have no-discharge permits through Regulation 5, which implements a state law, rather than the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program.

Although the different types of permits were not spelled out in the bill, John Bailey, director of environmental and regulatory affairs for the Arkansas Farm Bureau, said the Farm Bureau would not support moving the federal permits to the commission. Bailey acknowledged the complications that would come with moving a federal permitting program.

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Supporters of the bill, such as the Farm Bureau, said it would streamline the permitting process for farmers, who must get nutrient management plans approved at the commission but get their permits

from the department. Bentley also said department workers weren't being efficient enough in their permitting process.

Opponents argued that many of those farms that go to both agencies would still need other construction and stormwater permits from the department.

Wednesday's meeting started with more than a half an hour of testimony from Bailey.

Bailey went through Bentley's amendment line by line, trying to assure lawmakers that concerns people had brought up had been addressed in the amendment. He additionally contended that the Farm Bureau -- which conceived of the bill -- did not intend to have the bill say things opponents were concerned it said, such as stripping people of the permitting process' public notice requirements, keeping records secret or weakening regulations in any way.

Lawmakers and people testifying against the bill contended that the amendment did not go far enough.

The amendment does not adopt Regulation 8, an Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission regulation that the Department of Environmental Quality must follow, said Colene Gaston, attorney for Beaver Water District in Northwest Arkansas.

That regulation outlines the public notice, public participation and administrative appeals processes for permitting. The water utility uses those, along with the department's online records and databases, to stay on top of facilities that apply for and operate under permits in Beaver Lake's watershed.

The commission does not have those online resources or those processes, Gaston said, and the bill would not require them.

Though Bailey said the Farm Bureau intended to keep the permitting process the same while moving it to another agency, "intent is not sufficient," Gaston said.

"It needs to be in the bill itself," she told lawmakers.

Tad Bohannon, chief executive officer of Central Arkansas Water, said he was additionally concerned that protections provided to Lake Maumelle -- his utility's main drinking water source -- by the department may not be kept by the commission.

Bohannon also posed another concern about transparency that was echoed by others, including committee member Rep. Jeff Wardlaw, R-Hermitage: An Arkansas state law, Ark. Code Ann. 15-20-1006, concerning only the commission declares that information the commission possesses related to nutrient management plans is not public record.

"So nowhere in this bill do you take that out," Wardlaw told Bailey.

Bailey said he believed the law pertained only to poultry farms in the 13-county nutrient surplus area in Northwest Arkansas, but Wardlaw said that did not appear to be the case for him and that he didn't see

the word "poultry" in the law.

The law states: "Any records collected by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in furtherance of this subchapter that contain information about a specific nutrient management plan or specific nutrient application shall not be made public record."

The law removing nutrient management plan information was passed in 2003, as Act 1059, to amend state natural resources and economic development statutes. The subchapter amended concerns the certification of people who review nutrient management plans.

The law is not included in the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act state code, which outlines the records that are exempt from public inspection. The act states in its definition of "public records" that "all records maintained in public office or by public employees within the scope of their employment shall be presumed to be public records." The law then lists 23 exemptions, which must be changed by legislation.

Lawmakers and people who testified also debated a letter sent by the EPA to Department on Environmental Quality Director Becky Keogh last week notifying the state of a review of the bill.

Paul Means, a retired Entergy Arkansas public affairs director representing the company, testified that he was concerned about how a negative EPA response might affect Entergy Arkansas' federal water discharge permits.

"I think they all got distracted by the EPA letter," said Jessie Green, executive director of the White River Waterkeeper and a former department water division engineer, adding that the Regulation 5 permitting program largely implicated by the bill is not subject to EPA approval. Green opposed the bill.

After the meeting, opponents of the bill breathed a sigh of relief outside the committee room.

"I guess for right now this is the best possible thing," Green said.

But Green said she didn't think concerns could be resolved. The way the two state agencies are set up is too different to resolve concerns with anything supporters had offered to put in the bill, she said.

It wasn't the outcome Bailey or Bentley wanted.

"At least we can continue the conversation," Bailey said after the meeting.

Bentley said she did not want to present the bill "if we didn't have the votes today," and said, when asked what she wanted to be studied, that interim study was "just a matter of looking at things more intently."



Photo by John Sykes Jr.

Colene Gaston, with the Beaver Water District testifies against Senate Bill 550, which aims to to amend the law about liquid livestock litter utilization during a meeting of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development at the state capitol in Little Rock.

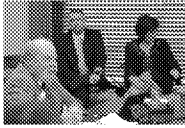


Photo by John Sykes Jr.

Paul Means, left, speaks against Senate Bill 550, which aims to to amend the law regarding liquid livestock litter utilization during a meeting of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development at the state capitol in Little Rock Wednesday morning. Behind Means, center, is John Bailey with the Arkansas Farm Bureau and the house sponsor of the bill, Representative Mary Bentley at right. Bailey supports the bill.

A Section on 03/28/2019

Print Headline: Farm-permits bill withdrawn for more study

Topics

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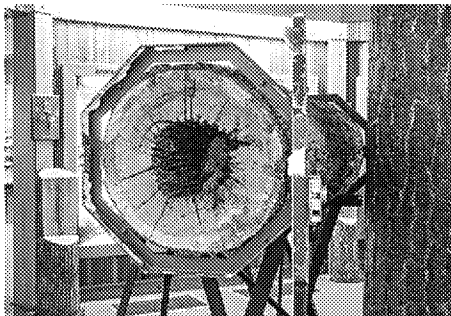
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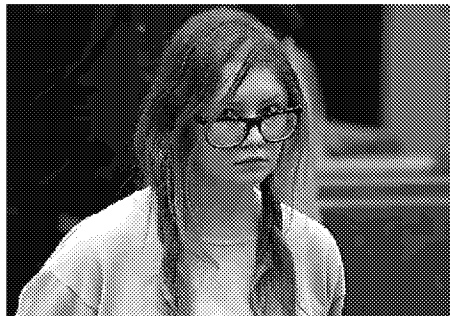
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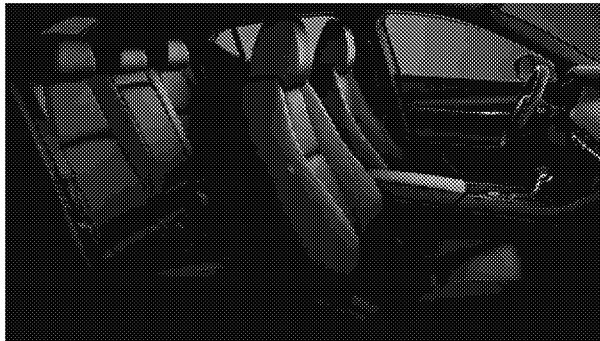
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RBEAR MARCH 28, 2019 AT 6:20 A.M.

This bill needs to be shelved, not tabled. To show how derailed this bill became, note the comments from the Farm Bureau lobbyist who's organization was the primary proponent of the bill. From the article, " (Bailey) additionally contended that the Farm Bureau -- which conceived of the bill -- did not intend to have the bill say things opponents were concerned it said, such as stripping people of the permitting process' public notice requirements, keeping records secret or weakening regulations in any way."

...

In other words, this bill became a bad mashup of conservative ideas that really were not designed to address the needs of the public.

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